



The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

A New Contest Year is Upon Us

This year introduces a different way of highlighting one's contesting activities within the club community of CDXA. The chase for QSOs and points will remain, to be sure. Bragging rights to hard-core fellow testers will still be based on the product of QSO points and multiplier points where the highest point total produces the "King of the Hill".

Yet, since contesting offers the ability to garner all time new DXCC entities, to improve one's CW skills, to enhance one's ability to copy quickly and accurately, and to learn how to get the best out of one's radio equipment, perhaps we need a different impetus to encourage contest participation to those who, for any number of reasons, can't vie for "King of the Hill" status.

The contest manager is introducing a framework for 2021 that will reward participation—both in terms of the number of contests that

AA4ZZ	Paul Trotter	President
N4HN	Thomas Wright	Vice-Pres.
N4APR	Ray Weeks	Sec./Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W1AJT	Art Tolda	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	4th Call Area Bureau Mgr.
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
K8YC	John Scott	Editor

are entered and "butt in chair" time during the contest. Thus, if you don't have 6 over 6 over 6 mono-banders on all five principal ham bands, each driven by a full legal power linear amplifier, you can still be a winner with prizes and recognition awaiting you. Many more contests of shorter duration, including state QSO parties and sprints, are included to form the bases of measuring your success.

Art Tolda, Contest Manager, spells out this "new era" in an article he wrote for the December, 2020 issue of the Pileup. If the above description sounds like it might be something that interests you, take a look at Art's article, available in the newsletter archives of CDXA on our website. See you in the next contest!

Here's a link to Art's article: <https://www.cdxa.org/pileup/archives/cdxa2012.pdf>

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems

K4MD (AR V.4 Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com:23
K4MD (AR V.6 Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com:7373
W4DXA (AR V.6 Cluster via Telnet)	w4dxa.no-ip.com:23
W3GQ (CC Cluster via Telnet)	w3gq.no-ip.com:7373
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Temporarily Cancelled due to Covid-19

Welcome New Member

Ed Swiderski (KU4BP) of Lexington, NC appeared on your editor's screen as a new member in December, shortly after the last issue of the Pileup was published. It was not a new name for this editor, since he remembered publishing several articles written by Ed in the Pileup in the first decade of the 21st Century. It was pleasurable seeing Ed's name on the roster again. Hopefully, we'll see him in person as the current pandemic starts to disappear. Welcome back, Ed!

Swaziland becomes eSwatini

In late 2018, the King of the Kingdom of Eswatini mandated that Swaziland would thereafter be called **eSwatini**. It was a somewhat "quiet" change, and you may have missed it. The ham radio prefix of 3DA remained unchanged. The history of the creation of Swaziland (now eSwatini) is quite interesting and available on Wikipedia.

If your logging program does not have automatic updates of the entity databases, you may wish to edit the entity name yourself. The "Beam Heading Chart" available for download on the CDXA website has been altered to reflect this "new" information. —*The Editor*

The Pileup

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The purpose of the Association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of associating with persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the Association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Ray Weeks, N4APR
3017 Cutchin Drive
Charlotte, NC 28210

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: rweeks1@carolina.rr.com.

DX King 2020 Wrap-up—And now we wait!

By January 5, 2021 all entries had to be submitted to CQ Magazine for consideration in the 2020 CQ Marathon. Contest organizers will be checking submitted logs over the next several months to verify that claimed contacts were permissible, and in about June the winners will be named. Twenty CDXA members accumulated scores throughout 2020 in the DX King/CQ Marathon competition. Eighteen members submitted their scores to CQ Magazine and seventeen had the required 150 points to be entered in the random draw raffle for a prize! Thanks to those 18 members whose scores will also be used to rank CDXA in the world-wide participating clubs in the informal club competition.

With propagation conditions improving, why not jump into the competition for 2021 which is already underway. You're not too late—you've got 11 months left to get your 150 points.

Below is the list of those who stayed the course in 2020.

DX King - 2020

Callsign	Entities	Zones	Total	Class	Last Update
K5EK	246	40	286	Unl.	December
K7BV	244	40	284	Unl.	December
K4ZO	243	40	283	Unl.	December
K3WA	209	40	249	Unl.	December
W1AJT	208	40	248	Unl.	December
W4PNY	205	40	245	Unl.	December
AA4V*	196	40	236	Unl.	November
N4PQX	196	40	236	Unl.	December
VE3UTT	193	40	233	Unl.	December
W4HG	193	39	232	Unl.	December
W3GQ	188	40	228	Unl.	December
KZ2I	173	40	213	Unl.	December
K8YC	175	37	212	Unl.	December
KD4RH	166	40	206	Lim.	December
W3DQS	162	37	199	Unl.	December
AA4R	159	36	195	Lim.	December
W3OA	142	36	178	Unl.	November
W4GEH	134	36	170	Unl.	December
W4CWA*	111	28	139	Unl.	November
K4NWX	97	24	121	Unl.	December

* Entry not recorded on CQ website

Silent Keys

In late 2020, three members of CDXA became Silent Keys within the space of a single month. We honor them here.

Ken Winston (WA4OBO—SK) Ken passed on 24 November, 2020. Ken was a Past President of CDXA, serving as President in 1996. Born and raised in NC, he was also a product of North Carolina State University. He swam on the NC State swim team and was a long time devoted fan of NC State Athletics. His degree in Textile Chemistry led to him eventually founding his own company, Winston Yarns. Besides being an avid amateur radio operator, he was a very good golfer. In his two year tenure as President of Carmel Country club, he was very pleased with his achievement of winning the President's Cup which no other standing president has ever achieved. Well known in the textile industry, he assisted the U.S. Government by going to West Africa to help several nations develop their own textile industry.

Paul Deyo (N1PD, ex WA4ZMM—SK) Paul passed on 26 November 2020. Born in 1947, Paul is survived by his wife of 50 years, Rebecca. Paul was a Vietnam Veteran of the USAF. He retired from Duke Power as a computer engineer. After retirement, he followed his passion for automobile racing and served as the Head Technical Director for Hickory Motor Speedway for many years. He was a classic car enthusiast and rebuilt a 1965 Chevy II. Besides being a DXer, Paul volunteered for Catawba County Government Communications as part of RACES and served as Chairman of the Board for the Catawba Rescue Squad.

Hayden "Tag" Bowers (K4TAG—SK) "Tag" passed on 21 December 2020. Hayden earned his life-long nickname, Tag, by tagging along behind his beloved, big brother Vernon. Vernon was one of Tag's 4 brothers and 5 sisters he grew up with. Tag proudly served in the Army Air Corp from 1946 to 1949 and frequently shared stories about Fort Bragg, Pope AFB, Chanute AFB, and Elmendorf AFB. He continued serving our nation and his fellow veterans for more than 30 years as a nursing assistant at the W. G. Hefner Veterans Hospital in Salisbury. Tag's dedicated efforts at the V.A. earned a number of awards, distinctions, and recognitions before he semi-retired in 1989. Tag's friendly calls of "CQ DX" reached the ears of countless many. Before modern telephone communications, Tag took joy in connecting "phone patches" so that missionaries and others working abroad could talk with their loved ones in and around his native Davie County.

Updating Your CDXA Profile

By John Scott, K8YC

From time to time I get an email asking me how a CDXA member can update their personal information on the club's records. Secretary Ray Weeks, Webmaster Wayne Setzer, or I as your editor will gladly take your information and share it amongst ourselves to ensure the club records are kept up to date. Yet there is an even easier way!

All you need to do to change your data is to visit the CDXA website. Once there, find the tab to our "Virtual Club Room" (vClubRoom) on the site. Under the vClubRoom tab, you'll find a tab named "Profile Update" which will let you change almost any data element you'd like to change. It even provides you a free-form field to enter any general comments you might want provide.

Wayne, as our Webmaster, is continually adding and tweaking things on the CDXA website. When you've got some free time, I suggest you check out the many tabs found on the home page to find out what Wayne has built. I'm betting there is something that you didn't know was there!

A Changing of the Guard

Thomas Wright, N4HN, has been elected as CDXA's Vice President for 2021. All hope that the vaccines developed to wipe out the Covid-19 pandemic will permit Thomas to perform the traditional duty of the Vice President to coordinate the social gatherings that we hope can resume before the end of 2021. We thank outgoing Vice President Eric Sossoman for the many telephone calls he made during his year trying to make the "next event" happen, only to find cancellation was the only viable alternative. It is now time for all of us to "think positive"

Phunny One-liners!!!

Did you hear about the guy who got hit in the head with a can of soda? He was lucky it was a soft drink.

The first computer dates back to Adam and Eve. It was an Apple with limited memory, just one byte. And then everything crashed.

I can't believe I got fired from the calendar factory. All I did was take a day off.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. It's impossible to put down.

QSO Today--Virtual Ham Expo Returns March 13-14

By John Scott, K8YC

Last September, the reduced ability to travel and the need to avoid large crowds in the midst of a pandemic spurred a few entrepreneurial people to produce a virtual hamfest called, "QSO Today—Virtual Ham Expo 2020. I reported some highlights of my experience with this new form of "attending" a hamfest in the October, 2020 issue of the Pileup.

Well, the same folks are back with a bigger and better version of the Expo on March 13-14, 2021. While the hamfest was free last September, the cost this year for early registration will be \$10 and "payment at the door" will be \$12.50. Based on the "exhibitors" present last fall with canned presentations and interactive "chat rooms", I think you'll find the new medium is every bit as good as attending a live hamfest. A complete schedule of forums—far more numerous than most hamfests—can be viewed over the two days with many speakers. Also, the prerecorded forum sessions can be viewed online for up to 30 days following the EXPO in case two forums that you wanted to see were being presented at the same time.

The use of computer graphics to let you stand in front of an exhibitor's booth and "walk the aisles" of the EXPO was remarkably good. Even "standing" outside the exhibit hall and watching the comings and goings of hams was remarkably realistic. I don't think you'll be disappointed in spending \$10 this time around for what proves to be a new experience. I'm sure the production team has only improved what was a good show last September.

If you wish to decide for yourself if this is for you visit <https://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com/>.

At this site you'll be able to see the speaker's lineup. You can also order your "tickets" there.

You might even enjoy visiting the "Exhibitor" tab on this website to see how exhibitors can purchase their "booth" for the EXPO. You can also get an idea of what walking the aisles will look like. We live in a computerized, online world today, folks!

2021 DX King "Roars" Out of the Gate

With some improvements in solar flux indexes in January, it appears that some "players" in the DX King contest took to the bands to get a good start on the 2021 version of the CQ Marathon. For those who have not been following current events, the DX King competition is specific to CDXA members and is simply a way to identify who within the ranks of CDXA is the best competitor in the worldwide CQ Marathon event.

The CQ Marathon is a year-long event, from January 1 to December 31 each year. Scoring is simply done counting one point for each CQ Marathon entity and one

point for each CQ Zone worked throughout the year. CQ Marathon entities are simply the well known DXCC entities with the addition of the following six entities added by CQ: ITU Vienna International Center (4U_VIC), Scotland's Shetland Islands (GM/Shetland), Italian African Islands (IH9), Italian Sicily (IT), Svalbard's Bear Island (JW/Bear), and European Turkey (TA1). Written confirmations are not required to claim a contact. Each competitor is on the honor system to report only bona fide contacts.

As an inducement for CDXA members to join in the fun and to help make CDXA score well in the standings of clubs the world over, anyone reporting a point total of 150 or more points to CQ Magazine at year end is entered in a raffle which is completed when CQ confirms claimed scores in mid-year following the contest year. The DX King award for CDXA has a requirement that all participants wishing to be included in the raffle and wishing to be eligible for the DX King title, MUST submit their score to CQ Magazine for the CQ Marathon. By insisting DX King participants submit scores to CQ Marathon, CDXA scores will be included in the club scoring race. Everybody wins!

Here is a link to the details of the competition. An Excel scoresheet can be filled in as you go or done just once at year end. (Note: Several program aids have been written in support of the more common logging programs to automate populating the official scoring sheet, so don't let score keeping deter you from joining in the fun.)

<https://dxmarathon.com/>

DX King 2021

Callsign	Entities	Zones	Totals	Reported Through
K5EK	189	39	228	January
K4ZO	155	40	195	January
W4HG	118	34	152	January
W1AJT	103	33	136	January
K8YC	100	30	130	January
VE3UTT	77	29	106	January